

Serial No.: 09/683,988
Docket No.: 55295 (43640/55295)

REMARKS

Amendment of the Specification

The title of the invention has been amended to reflect the fact that the claims, as amended, are directed solely to processes.

Amendment of the Claims

The claims have been amended by cancelling, without prejudice to their patentability, the previously withdrawn claims 1-6. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application directed to the subject matter of claims 1-6.

Double Patenting

Enclosed herewith is a completed and executed form PTO/SB/26, Terminal Disclaimer To Obviate A Double Patenting Rejection Over A "Prior" Patent, in which the Assignee, M-I L.L.C., disclaimed any term for the patent granted on the instant application that would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Pat. No. 6,251,348. Also included is the \$110.00 fee for filing the terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 CFR 1.20(d).

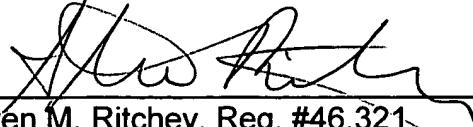
In view of the foregoing, the rejections to claims 7-9 are obviated and Applicants respectfully request that be withdrawn.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 7-9 is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 20-0823.

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Respectfully submitted,


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